

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:1. *(Currently amended)*

A method of constructing a self-standing reinforced soil arch comprising ~~constructing an arch utilizing a combination of~~

(a) placing a pair of parallel temporary footings on the ground of the location where the soil arch is to be erected;

(b) placing on the pair of parallel temporary footings an archway form which straddles the pair of parallel temporary footings;

(c) erecting adjacent to and on the form a combination of alternating and interacting layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement material in a manner that which combination supports both the dead load of the structure soil arch and the live load imposed on the structure soil arch without applying any appreciable permanent weight to the form;

(d) connecting the archway form to the reinforced soil; and

(e) removing the pair of parallel temporary footings.

2. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein ~~an~~ the archway form is installed for initially supporting the combination of compacted soil and reinforcement material.

3. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 2 1 wherein the archway form is connected to supported by the compacted reinforced soil and reinforcement.

4. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the archway form is connected to the compacted soil and reinforcement material by wire mesh, bars, or connection members so that the archway form moves with the reinforced soil.

5. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reinforcement material consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, or wood ~~or like materials.~~

6. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the soil arch shape may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.

7. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing~~ is constructed of a combination of corrugated steel, woven geotextile and wire mesh, the wire mesh being inserted through pre-drilled holes in the corrugated steel.

8. *(Cancelled)*9. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 where the ~~soil reinforcement is connected to the form~~ material comprises woven geotextile.

10. *(Currently amended)*

A method as claimed in claim 1 where the ~~soil reinforcement~~ material is not connected to the form.

11. *(Currently amended)*

A self-standing reinforced soil arch constructed of a combination of soil and reinforcements comprising:

- (a) a pair of parallel temporary footings on a ground site;
- (b) an archway form which straddles the pair of temporary footings;
- (c) an archway adjacent to and on the form constructed of a combination of alternating and interacting layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement material which combination supports both the dead load of the soil arch and any live load imposed on the soil arch without applying any appreciable permanent weight to the form; the form is attached to the reinforced soil but not necessarily the soil reinforcement, the pair of parallel temporary footings being removed after the soil arch is formed.

12. *(Currently amended)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the reinforcement material consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, or wood or like materials.

13. *(Currently amended)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the reinforced soil arch ~~shape~~ may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.

14. *(Currently amended)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein a ~~form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing~~ is constructed of a combination of corrugated steel, woven geotextile and wire mesh or bars, the wire mesh being inserted through pre-drilled holes in the corrugated steel.

15. *(Cancelled)*16. *(Original)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is connected to the form.

17. *(Original)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is not connected to the form.

18. *(Currently amended)*

A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the soil and ~~reinforcements~~ reinforcement material are ~~arranged as a combination of layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement~~ woven geotextile.